ing from insomnia demonstrates that this pathological phenomenon coincides either with a state of marked hypertension or excessive hypotension. Without the aid of drugs, and by the employment of simple physical procedures, it is easy in the great majority of cases to restore the arterial tension to normal and at the same time to cause sleep. It is always useful to add to this physiological treatment, a psychological one, and cause a habit of sleep. There are two kinds of insomnias,—the neuropathic, in which suggestion is applicable and the more serious form where the treatment by opium or chloral is justifiable. The insomnia of neurasthenia, that occurring during convalescence from typhoid fever, and that accompanying a condition of low arterial tension, all have the same pathogeny. When a patient with asystole cannot sleep, it is because the arterial pressure is low. If his feeble heart be relieved with digitalis, sleep at the same time becomes possible. In a great number of cases one can substitute the dynamic agents, such as massage, frictions, douches and transfusions, and at the same time caffeine and digitalis may be employed as heart tonics.

FREEMAN.

Idiocy Without Myxœdema Improved by Thyroid Treatment. Dr. Netter, at the Biological Society at Paris, Nov. 30, 1895, read a note on a case of idiocy without myxœdema treated successfully by thyroid. The patient was a child six years of age, progressively cachexic, with puffiness of the face, and thickening of the skin of the legs. The cachexia, the œdema, the skin thickening and the trace of a special albumin, which was found in the urine disappeared under the thyroid treatment. No trace of the thyroid gland could be detected in this child.—*Sem. Med.*, Dec. 6, 1895. MITCHELL.

Methods of Preparing Thyroid Extract. At the Société de Therapeutique, on the 11th of December, 1895, there was a discussion as to the value of the different methods of preparing thyroid extract. M. Vigier related his plan, which was as follows: He uses sheep-thyroid, mixing the fresh pulp with pulverized sugar. It is further mixed with carbonate of soda, and with charcoal, in order to hinder decomposition. This preparation has been successfully administered by a number of physicians. In the discussion which followed his brief statement there was a general agreement that the fresh preparations, while more troublesome, were more active than the tablets, extracts and powders. The latter, of course, have the advantages of being always accessible, and fairly constant in their effects. In one case which Dr. Marie treated for six weeks with the natural thyroid, the results were excellent, but after the suspension of treatment for six weeks the symptoms reappeared. In the second course of treatment, preparations of the gland were given, made by evaporation *in vacuo* with the addi-

tion of boric acid. Three times as much was required to produce the same effect as equal weights of the fresh gland, and upon returning to the fresh gland, even, improvement was not so rapid as during the first treatment, a result which the physicians attributed to the fact that the thyroid in the latter instance had been procured from an animal of somewhat more mature age.—*Le Med. Mod.*, Dec. 14, 1895.

MITCHELL.

The Bichloride of Mercury Hypodermically as a Cure for Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Consalvi, of Cassli, Italy, reports the results of this method of treatment in nine cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis occurring in an epidemic of grip. Only one case, that of a girl, aged seven, proved fatal, and in this case there was temporarily an improvement following the injection. The dose varied from .005 milligrams to .01 centigram, according to the age of the patient, administered once in twenty-four hours in the beginning and later once in forty-eight hours. The oldest patient treated was nineteen years, the youngest fourteen months. Most of the symptoms were relieved after the first two or three injections though muscular rigidity persisted in some cases until after the seventh or eighth injection. In one patient an acute mercurial stomatitis developed after the tenth injection and in another (both girls) a bloody diarrhœa of short duration seemed to be the result of the mercury. Other therapeutic measures employed were leeches, ice, calomel in purgative doses and bromide or morphine to quiet the patient when necessary with iodide of potassium during convalescence.—*La Semaine Med.*, Jan. 15, 1896.

PRITCHARD.

Treatment of Epilepsy. Dr. P. Dignat in the *Bulletin Général de Therapeutique* (Nov. 30, 1895), sums up his studies on the use of vesicants along the seat of aura in epilepsy as follows:

1. The circular vesicants applied along the course of the aura, either at the point of departure, or immediately centrad of it constitutes one of the most efficacious forms of treatment for certain forms of partial epilepsy, with motor or sensory auræ.

2. The treatment is applicable to partial epilepsy *not* due to cranial injury, cerebral syphilis, or any organic cerebral lesion.

3. Observation has shown that this procedure succeeds in cases where other modes of treatment have failed.

4. Finally, this method is absolutely inoffensive and devoid of secondary symptoms such as arise, for instance, after long administration of the bromides.

KRAUSS.